

Message Text

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72

ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 3282

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJ: LAUNCHING OF NEW CONSCRIPTION EFFORT

REF: PHNOM PENH 2638

1. SUMMARY. MARCH 4 MEETING CHAIRED BY PRIME MINISTER DECIDED TO LAUNCH NEW CONSCRIPTION EFFORT CONCURRENT WITH TABULATION OF PHNOM PENH CENSUS RESULTS, BACKED BY AUGMENTED GKR STAFF AND GREATER EMBASSYIN INPUTS. CONSCRIPTION CHIEF OF STAFF ALSO STATED THAT COMPLETION OF CENSUS-TAKING OPERATION WILL PERMIT MORE ACTIVE SEARCH FOR DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS. IN VIEW OF CONTINUED LACK OF PROGRESS IN PROVINCES, DECISION WAS MADE TO ASSIGN MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE OF JOINT CONSCRIPTION STAFF TO EACH OF THE MAJOR PROVICES. END SUMMARY.

2. AT OUR REQUEST PRIME MINISTER CALLED MARCH 4 MEETING TO DISCUSS POST-CENSUS CONSCRIPTION MEASURES. SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MG THAPPANA NGINN, MINISTER OF INTERIOR CHHANN SOKHUM, PHNOM PENH GOVERNOR UN TRAMUCH, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL BG KIM AN DORE, CHIEF OF JOINT CONSCRIPTION STAFF BG YONG YOC HANG, AND THEIR PRINCIPAL ASSISTANTS WERE PRESENT AS WERE CHARGE', CHMEDTC, AND POL/MIL COUNSELOR. (AS IN PAST, FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ DECLINED TO
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ATTEND, PROBABLY BECAUSE HE WISHES TO AVOID GIVING INDICATION THAT FANK IS SUBORDINATED TO PRIME MINISTER.) MEETING HEARD YONG YOC HANG'S REPORT ON STATUS OF CENSUS AND CONSCRIPTION AND MADE A NUMBER OF DECISIONS TO SPEED LAUNCHING OF A NEW EFFORT.

3. CHARGE' NOTED THAT IN FIRST NINE WEEKS OF 1974 FANK PERSONNEL ACCESSIONS EXCEEDED AVERAGE WEEKLY LOSS RATE ON ONLY TWO OCCASIONS AND THAT NEW EFFORT IS NEEDED TO COVER NOT ONLY LOSSES AS THEY OCCUR BUT ALSO DEFICIT RESULTING FROM LOW ACCESSION RATE OVER PAST FEW MONTHS. CHMEDTC STATED THAT HE HAD FOUND DURING HIS INITIAL VISITS TO DIVISIONS AROUND PHNOM PENH BATTALIONS OPERATING WITH LESS THAN 200 MEN AND EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER ABILITY OF THESE UNDERSTRENGTH UNITS TO COPE WITH SECOND ENEMY HIGH POINT, WHICH IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO COME IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. YONG YOC HANG ESTIMATED TOTAL TIME REQUIRED TO TABULATE RESULTS OF PHNOM PENH CENSUS AT THREE MONTHS AND NOTED THAT TABULATORS WERE THEREFORE FOCUSING FIRST ON PROCESSING FORMS OF 18 - 26 YEAR OLDS, WHICH IS TO BE COMPLETED ON MARCH 15. WE RECOMMENDED THAT ISSUANCE OF DRAFT CALL-UPS PROCEED CONCURRENTLY WITH THIS TABULATION SO AS NOT TO WASTE VALUABLE TIME. PRIME MINISTER SO DIRECTED AND ORDERED SANGKHAT CHIEF TO BE ASSEMBLED ON MARCH 5 TO RECEIVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS. BORET PROMISED YONG YOC HANG VEHICLES REQUIRED TO SPEED UP HIS EFFORT. PRIME MINISTER ALSO ASKED FANK J-1 TO FIND OFFICERS TO SERVE AS JOINT CONSCRIPTION STAFF'S REPRESENTATIVES AT EACH OF CITY'S 30 SANGKATS, WHICH ARE CHARGED WITH BOTH TABULATION OF CENSUS AND ISSUANCE OF DRAFT CONVOCATIONS. (AT PRESENT STAFF HAS REPRESENTATIVES ONLY AT THE CITY'S EIGHT KHANDS AND THEY PROVIDE ONLY TECHNICAL ADVICE TO REVIEW BOARDS. YONG YOC HANG ALSO HAS PLANS TO STATION AN INSPECTOR AS WELL AT THE KHAND LEVEL.)

5. YONG YOC HANG ATTRIBUTED SMALL NUMBER OF DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS APPREHENDED (55 AND 134 RESPECTIVELY TO DATE) TO FACT THAT UNUSUAL CAUTION WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT THESE OPERATIONS FROM INTERFERING WITH CENSUS-TAKING. NOW THAT CENSUS DATA HAS BEEN COLLECTED, MORE ENERGETIC EFFORTS WILL BE MADE, HE PROMISED.

6. YONG YOC HANG CONFIRMED THAT JOINT INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN SENT TO ALL PROVINCES TO BEGIN CONSCRIPTION BUT ADMITTED AHT RESULTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTING. MEETING AGREED THAT JOINT
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CONSCRIPTION STAFF SHOULD ASSIGN A REPRESENTATIVE AT LEVEL OF COLONEL OR LIEUTENANT COLONEL TO EACH PROVINCE TO OVERSEE CONSCRIPTION AND RECRUITMENT PROCESS. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIVES CAN BREAK DOWN THE OPPOSITION OF SOME GOVERNORS TO FURNISH MEN FOR PHNOM PENH BUT THEY CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION ON STATUS OF PROVINCIAL EFFORTS, WHICH CAN FORM BASIS FOR HIGH LEVEL INTERVENTIONS. IN THIS RESPECT, YONG YOC HANG IS RECOMMENDING THAT THAPPANA NGINN, CHHANN SOKHUM AND THE TRAVEL TO EACH OF THE PROVINCES TO IMPRESS GOVERNORS WITH IMPORTANCE GKR PLACES ON THE CONSCRIPTION EFFORT.

7. IN EFFORT TO BREAK THROUGH THE INERTIA, WE PROPOSED AND BORET AGREED THAT A DAILY TARGET OF 186 ACCESSIONS (EQUIVALENT

TO GROSS AVERAGE DAILY 1973 PERSONNEL LOSSES) BE
ADOPTED BEGINNING MARCH 6. YONG YOC HANG'S AUGMENTED STAFF
AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL WILL PROVIDE INTENSIVE DAY TO DAT
SURVEILLANCE OF EXECUTION DOWN TO AND INCLUDING ILOT LEVEL.
CABINET LEVEL GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN 13 MARCH TO REVIEW THE
RESULTS AND TAKE FURTHER ACTION IF CAMPAIGN STILL LAGS.
ENDERS

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